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EXAMINER

HUYNH, BA

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ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US patent application publication 2002/0071,540 (Dworkin) in view of US patent 6,363,352 (Dailey et al).

Note: The '352 patent was cited in form 892 of previous Office action.

- As for claims 1, 4-6: Dworkin teaches a computer implemented system and corresponding method for managing a first service of distributing contents in real-time according to a reservation made in advance by a first terminal, and, to a plurality of participant terminals 106, 108 (0015, 0019, 0027) for requesting the use of first service and the use of a second service of providing a chat space (0002-0008, 0015-0019), comprising the means/steps for:
 - acquiring means configured to acquire reservation information, sent by the first terminal, to the information processing apparatus from a reservation database in order to provide the first service (0023, 0027) to the plurality of participant terminals (0015, 0016, 0025), the plurality of participant terminals receiving a distribution notice in accordance with the participants addresses of the reservation (0027),

a reservation information providing unit ASP 110 configured to provide the conferee terminals information including shared authentication data (all user share the same chat room password and only one single password is being used to access all other services (0026, 0028)), a description of the first service, scheduling information and hyperlink data of a webpage of a user of a first terminal (0002-0008, 0015-0019. See also Dailey's 2:26-29).

generating means configured to generate the chat space corresponding to the reservation at scheduled distribution start time designated by the reservation (0019-0021, 0025-0028),

authentication means for authenticating participant terminals by the use of authenticating data used by the server to authenticate the participant terminals (0018, 0024, 0026, 0028). Per Dworkin, all user share the same chat room password (i.e., shared password. See applicant's spec, page 8, lines 6-7), and only one single password is being used to access all other services (0026, 0028), thus it appears that Dworkin disclosure implicitly includes shared authentication data.

Even if it is not, shared authentication data is well known in the art of access control (see citations below). It would have been obvious to one of skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine the well known implementation of shared authentication data to Dworkin. Motivation of the combining is for reducing computational processing, e.g., one single password to all participants for accessing the chat room, and/or using one single password for accessing all different services.

providing means for providing the chat space to all conference participants and the first service to the participant terminals designated to be distributed by the first terminal (0016, 0024, 0025, 0027).

Although Dworkin teaches sending distribution notice to conferees (0027) and that conferees may communicate through email (abstract, fig. 3), it appears Dworkin implicitly includes sending the distribution notice to conferees in accordance with conferees email address. Even if it is not, in the same field of virtual conferencing, Dailey et al teach sending distribution notice to conferees through email address (Dailey's figure 5). The distribution notice includes a hyperlink data of a webpage of a user of a first terminal (Dailey's 2:26-29). It would have been obvious to one of skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine Dailey's teaching of sending distribution notice to conferees via email to Dworkin. Motivation of the combining is for the obvious advantage of having a pre-established, quick and reliable email communication protocol.

In light of the combining, designated participants are notified and connected to scheduled conferences (Dworkin's 0027) via email (Dworkin's fig. 3, Dailey's fig 5). Per Dailey, the notifier (distribution notice) include a description of the first service 1432, 1436, 1442, scheduling information 1450, 1454 and hyperlink data 1442, 1918, 1920 (figs 5, 6, 10), and network address of the host (3:37-60). Shared authentication (chat room password, log-in access are shared authentication service provided by the ASP) are provided for protecting access to the conference room by others and allowing only authorized user to

enter a reserved conference (Dworkin's 0016, 0018, 0026, 0028). Dworkin discloses in fig. 3 a fully conference support web page which includes an Email service 150, Instant Message service 160, Conference window service 156, and authentication service (0018, lines 1-6). Thus it appears that Dworkin implicitly includes sending the notification with authentication data to the participant terminals (since both Email service and authentication service are in the same web page). Even if it is not, it would have been obvious to one of skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to implement sending the notification with authentication data to the participant terminals for informing the upcoming reserved conference.

Although Dworkin teaches generating the chat space at scheduled time (0026), Dworkin fails to clearly teach that the chat space is generated at predetermined time "prior" to a distribution start time. However Dailey teaches generating the chat space at predetermined time "prior" to a distribution start time (3:23-33, 5:28-43). Since the chat space must be available at scheduled time for customer satisfaction, it would have been obvious to one of skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine Dailey's teaching of generating the chat space at predetermined time "prior" to a distribution start time. Motivation of the implementation is for avoiding schedule confliction and overlapping.

In light of the combining, the chat space and the first service are provided simultaneously (in the same web page) to conferees via actuation of the hyperlink 1920, 1926 (Dailey's figure 10) in accordance with the scheduling information of

the distribution notice. The providing unit delivering simultaneous access (all in the same web page) to the chat space and first service upon authentication of the shared authentication data at the information processing apparatus.

- As for claims 2, 3: The first service is a service for distributing contents sent according to a reservation made in advance, to the terminal in real-time (0004, 0008, 0016-0018), and the second service is a service for providing a chat space corresponding to the reservation for the terminal (0002-0008, 0015-0019).
- As for claim 7: The first service is a service for distributing multimedia content (0023, 0027) from a first terminal to other participants (0015, 0016). Dworkin is silent regarding distributing of the multimedia content unidirectionally. However such implementation would have been obvious to one of skill in the art since the conference initiator is the only one who has and needs to distribute the content.
- As for claim 8: The multimedia content includes video content (0014, 0023, 0032).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 4/7/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Remarks:

In response to the argument that the combined teachings do not teach “hyperlink data of a webpage of a user of the first terminal”, the limitation is disclosed by Dworkin in [0007] wherein a web page is generated and provided to participants. Dailey also discloses the limitation in 3:37-60 wherein the host network address is included in the meeting request.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following references disclose the well known implementation of shared authentication (previously cited):

US patent 7,010,582, fig. 1.

US patent 7,272,397, fig 3.

US patent 7,003,481, Summary of the Invention.

US patent application publication 2002/0048268

US patent application publication 2002/0007452, fig. 8

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ba Huynh whose telephone number is (571) 272-4138. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo can be reached on (571) 272-4847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ba Huynh

/Ba Huynh/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2179